

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03550 271442Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 CIAE-00  
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-----053643 271455Z /41

O R 271355Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8454

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE

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USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JUNE 27, 1978, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3456 (DTG 221345Z JUN 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SARKIS ADDRESSED THE NATION AND  
WARNED THAT DIFFICULT DECISIONS MAY HAVE TO BE MADE. THERE WAS  
NO MAJOR VIOLENCE IN NORTH LEBANON, ALTHOUGH TENSION REMAINED  
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03550 271442Z

HIGH. PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL SAID HE WOULD OFFER  
HIS LIFE TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT WITH THE FRANJIYAHs, BUT A  
ZGHARTA SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT GEMAYEL SHOULD REPENT. THE  
LEBANESE ARMY ESTABLISHED CHECKPOINTS IN THE HIGH-METN. THE  
SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON REMAINED GENERALLY CALM, WHILE CAMILLE  
CHAMOUN DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF RIGHTIST MILITIA TO REMAIN IN THE  
AREA. UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS KILLED AND MUTILATED A MEMBER OF WALID

JUMBLATT'S SOCIALIST PARTY, WHICH RETALIATED BY FIRING A ROCKET AT EAST BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. SARKIS ADDRESSES NATION:

IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS TO THE LEBANESE PEOPLE ON JUNE 22, PRESIDENT SARKIS SAID THAT THE STATE MAY HAVE TO TAKE DECISIONS WHICH WILL NOT MEET WITH THE SATISFACTION OF ALL PARTIES (SEE BEIRUT 3482). ALTHOUGH STRESSING THAT "THE HARD WAY MAY BE THE RIGHT WAY," HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THESE DECISIONS MIGHT BE.

THE ADDRESS DREW PRAISE FROM AL AMAL, THE NEWSPAPER OF THE PHALANGE PARTY, WHICH DECLARED ON JUNE 23 THAT "THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ONLY THE TRUTH." CAMILLE CHAMOUN REACTED SARCASTICALLY, HOWEVER, AND WAS QUOTED BY THE NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY PAPER AL AHRAR AS SAYING: "LET HIM LIBERATE AD-DAMUR AND SHIYAH - ONLY IN THIS WAY WILL THE PRESIDENT SATISFY ALL PARTIES."

3. NORTH LEBANON.

THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR VIOLENCE IN NORTH LEBANON. TENSION IN NORTH LEBANON REMAINS HIGH, HOWEVER, AS THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE APPROACHES WHEN SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH SAID ALL PHALANGE PARTY MEMBERS MUST LEAVE NORTH LEBANON OR RESIGN THEIR PARTY MEMBERSHIPS.

4. PIERRE GEMAYEL AND ZGHARTA SPOKESMAN EXCHANGE WORDS.

ACCORDING TO THE BEIRUT MAGAZINE USBU' AL-ARABI, PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL SAID ON JUNE 23 "I AM READY TO GO TO ZGHARTA MYSELF AND TELL THEM THERE, 'KILL ME IF THIS WOULD SETTLE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03550 271442Z

THE CONFLICT AND END THE VENDETTA."

ON JUNE 26 A SPOKESMAN FOR THE "ZGHARTA POLITICAL COMMAND" REPLIED:

--"IF SHEIKH PIERRE WISHES TO RETURN TO HIS FATHER, HE IS WELCOME IF HE RETURNS REPENTANT, DECLARING HIMSELF AGAINST TERRORISM AND NAZISM, CARRYING WITH HIM A CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARTY WHICH HE FOUNDED . . . "

--"SHEIKH PIERRE CAN SET HIS MIND AT EASE. NOBODY IS LOOKING FOR HIM . . . BUT IF THE GHOST OF THE CRIME HE COMMITTED AND THE INNOCENT BLOOD HE SHED IS LOOKING FOR HIM, THAT IS NOT ZGHARTA'S FAULT."

5. NORTH METN.

THE LEBANESE ARMY HAS ESTABLISHED CHECKPOINTS NEAR DAR ASH SHUWAYAR, BAABDAT AND ELSEWHERE IN THE HIGH-METN, APPARENTLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO LESSEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF CONFLICT BETWEEN SYRIAN ADF FORCES AND PHALANGE MILITIA IN THE AREA. MEANWHILE PHALANGE SECRETARY GENERAL AMINE GEMAYEL APPEALED TO THE "CHILDREN OF ZGHARTA" TO RETURN TO THE HIGH-METN. (MANY PEOPLE FROM ZGHARTA HAVE BEEN FLEEING ASHRAFIYAH AND THE HIGH-MENT FOR WEST BEIRUT AND NORTH LEBANON IN THE WAKE OF TONY FRANJIYAH'S MURDER.)

6. SOUTH LEBANON.

U.N. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES JONAH ARRIVED IN BEIRUT JUNE 24 FROM NEW YORK FOR DISCUSSIONS HERE, IN NAQURAH AND IN JERUSALEM ON SOUTH LEBANON. THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON REMAINS GENERALLY CALM, ALTHOUGH PALESTINIANS FIRED OVER THE HEADS OF FRENCH TROOPS AT SIDDIQIN ON JUNE 23, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DATT SOURCE.

7. CHAMOUN DEFENDS MILITIA IN SOUTH.

CAMILLE CHAMOUN TOLD THE PRESS JUNE 26 THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE ANY MOVES TO REMOVE THE RIGHTIST SOLDIERS AND MILITIA WHO NOW CONTROL PARTS OF SOUTH LEBANON, BECAUSE UNIFIL WAS INCAPABLE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03550 271442Z

PREVENTING PALESTINIANS FROM REINFILTRATING INTO THE REGION. HE CLAIMED THERE WERE NOW 1370 PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

8. PSP MEMBER ASSASSINATED.

ON JUNE 23, UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS KILLED AND MUTILATED A MEMBER OF WALID JUMBLATT'S PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP WHEN HE WENT TO EAST BEIRUT TO VISIT HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW. ON JUNE 25 A ROCKET, POSSIBLY FIRED BY THE PSP IN RETALIATION, LANDED IN ASHRAFIYAH AND DAMAGED A HOUSE, BUT CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. THE SAME DAY, PSP MILITIA AT THE FUNERAL OF THE DECEASED THREW DYNAMITE INTO THE WATER AND FIRED THEIR WEAPONS INTO THE AIR ABOUT 100 METERS FROM ST. GEORGES BEACH, FRIGHTENING THE BATHERS (MANY OF WHOM WERE CHRISTIANS), BUT CAUSING NO CASUALTIES.

9. AIR FORCE JET MISSING.

THE LEBANESE ARMY ANNOUNCED THAT AN AIR FORCE HAWKER-JUNTER FIGHTER WAS MISSING AFTER TAKING OFF FOR A FLIGHT ON JUNE 26. LEBANESE AND BRITISH ROYAL AIR FORCE PLANES BASED IN CYPRUS ARE TRYING TO LOCATE THE JET, WHICH MAY HAVE CRASHED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NEAR BATROUN.

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## Message Attributes

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